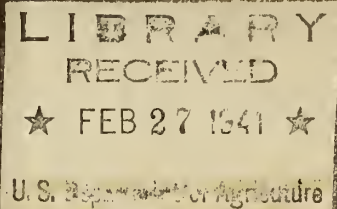


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



PREPARATION OF WOOL FOR MARKET

Broadcast Monday, February 10, 1941, by J. W. Christie, Agricultural Marketing Service, and Wallace L. Kadderly, Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture period, National Farm and Home Hour, over the blue network of the National Broadcasting Company.

--ooOoo--

KADDERLY:

Now we're going to talk about wool for a few minutes, with J. W. Christie, one of the wool marketing specialists of the Agricultural Marketing Service. It will soon be shearing time in the sheep country of the Southwestern States -- and shearing will move north and east as the weather grows warmer, until shearing reaches its peak in May and June.

Mr. Christie....from what I've heard about the outlook for wool, it seems likely that there'll be a pretty good demand for wool this year.

CHRISTIE:

That's the way it looks. And with a good demand---it's particularly important for wool growers to do everything possible to produce wool of high quality----so if prices should go up the grower will get full benefit from the increase.

You know, Mr. Kadderly, if you were to turn me loose, I could easily talk for an hour or two on the subject of preparation of wool for market.

KADDERLY:

I'm sorry to be a restraining influence!....But I'll tell you what you do....give us the gist of it in 30 seconds.

CHRISTIE:

Well....in that case I'd make it something like this: "In preparing wool for market; shear the sheep with care; remove from the fleece before shearing all dirty tags and heavy locks; shear only when the fleeces are dry, and on a clean, smooth board floor----never on the ground; remove the fleece in one piece. If the sheep must be branded, keep the brand marks small. Roll the fleece with the flesh-side out----so that its brightness may win favor in the buyer's eyes. Tie each fleece separately---using only paper twine----never using twine of sisal, jute or hemp, lest the twine cause serious troubles to the makers of cloth. And use no more twine than is absolutely necessary."

KADDERLY:

Now----I'd say that's quite a list of suggestions you've unfolded, Mr. Christie.

CHRISTIE:

Yes it is....and every one of those suggestions comes from the school of experience in good wool marketing practices. You know, Mr. Kadderly

(over)

I've been in the wool business all my life; I grew up in it--and I've been a wool buyer. So when I start talking about the things that wool growers can do to improve the quality of the fleece I'm doing it from the point of view of the man who's going to buy the wool.

KADDERLY:

I take it that you believe the care that's used in preparing wool for market makes a difference in the price that the grower receives.

CHRISTIE:

I know it does. Suppose I'm a wool buyer and you're a wool grower. I've bought your wool clip for years---and I've always found it of high quality. You have a good band of sheep, you produce wool that is free from dirty tags; shrinkage is average; the wool is free from burrs, chaff, and straw. So over a period of years you've built up a reputation as a producer of good wool. Buyers want your wool. So--if I'm going to get it I know I'll have to pay full market price.

KADDERLY:

But suppose over a period of years I haven't been so careful--haven't kept all the dirt and tags out of the fleece. Or maybe I tie it with binder twine.

CHRISTIE:

In that case, Mr. Kadderly, your wool isn't worth as much to the manufacturer who finally will use it; so I can't pay you as high a price as I could if I knew your wool always was well grown and well prepared. It's a pretty good thing for the wool grower to remember that wool well grown for grade, quality, and condition is half-sold. You know, the hardest thing for a wool buyer to do is to go away and leave a good clip of wool---but it's easy to walk out of your ranch yard and leave a poor clip.

KADDERLY:

Would you say that in general, American wool growers produce high quality wool?

CHRISTIE:

Well---they're not perfect, but I'd say that in general they raise a very good clip, so far as quality is concerned. We're doing all we can to help them make it better. By "we" I mean not only the Department of Agriculture, but also the agricultural colleges, the county agents and the wool growers organizations. We have prepared a pamphlet on preparing wool for market--and we'd be glad to send it to any grower who's interested in improving the quality of wool he sends to market.

KADDERLY:

We'll just regard that as an offer. There's a leaflet on storing wool, too....storing wool on the farm I mean. Would you be willing to send that one along, too?

CHRISTIE:

Yes. indeed.

KADDERLY:

Very good....we'll just include that storage leaflet in this offer.

Farm and Home friends...those of you who would like the leaflets Mr. Christie has mentioned..."Preparing Wool for Market" and "Storing Wool"... can get them by writing to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. We'll be glad to send you either or both of them. The names, again.... "Preparing Wool for Market" and "Storing Wool." Address your request to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

###

